

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5566

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 138

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: NEW POLITICAL PARTY

REF: 75 LISBON 7380 (DTG 111403Z DEC 75)

SUMMARY: TWO PORTUGUESE MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANIZATIONS HAVE
MERGED TO FORM A NEW POLITICAL PARTY, THE RECONSTRUCTED
PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY. NEW PARTY IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF
ITS CONNECTIONS WITH POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION, MOST COHESIVE AND
MILITANT OF PORTUGUESE FAR LEFT PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. TWO MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANIZATIONS, THE ORGANIZATION FOR
THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PORTUGUESE MARXIST-LENINIST COMMUNIST
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PARTY (ORPC-ML) AND THE PORTUGUESE MARXIST-LENINIST COMMITTEE

(CMLP) ANNOUNCED DEC 31 THEIR MERGER TO FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY, THE RECONSTRUCTED PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PARTIDO COMUNISTA PORTUGUES (RECONSTRUIDO) -- PCP(R).

2. ALONG WITH ANOTHER MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANIZATION, THE PORTUGUESE MARXIST-LENINIST COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION (OCMLP), THE ORPC-ML AND CMLP HAD FORMED A COMMISSION IN MAY 1975 TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AND CONVOKE A CONGRESS WHERE "RESTRUCTURED" COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD BE FOUNDED. OCMLP QUIT COMMISSION DEC 15, CHARGING FORMER PARTNERS WITH "SECTARIANISM" AND "SCHISMATISM." WITHDRAWAL APPARENTLY PRODUCED SPLIT WITHIN OCMLP, HOWEVER, AS NUMBER OF "FORMER MEMBERS" REPORTEDLY ATTENDED PCP(R) FOUNDING CONGRESS -- FINALLY CONVOKED IN LATE DECEMBER -- AS "OBSERVERS."

3. PCP(R) CONGRESS FINALLY CONCLUDED JAN 5 WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PARTY STATUTES HAD BEEN APPROVED AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE (NOT IDENTIFIED) ELECTED. ALSO ANNOUNCED WAS APPROVAL BY CONGRESS OF EXPRESSION OF FULL SUPPORT FOR POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDP), A LEGAL PARTY IN ITS OWN RIGHT, CREATED AS AN ELECTORAL VEHICLE FOR THE 1975 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS BY THREE MARIST-LENINIST ORGANIZATIONS WHICH LATER MERGED TO FORM THE ORPC-ML.

4. COMMENT: THE TOTAL COMBINED MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORPC-ML AND THE CMLP -- AND THEREFORE, PRESUMABLY, OF THE PCP(R) -- IS PROBABLY NO MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE. THE PCP(R) IS IMPORTANT PRIMARILY FOR ITS RELATIONSHIP, THROUGH THE ORPC-ML, TO THE UDP, CURRENTLY THE MOST COHESIVE, BEST ORGANIZED, AND MOST MILITANT FAR LEFT PARTY IN PORTUGAL. THOUGH ELECTORALLY INSIGNIFICANT -- IT POLLED 44,546 VOTES IN THE 1975 ELECTIONS -- THE UDP IS STRONGLY ENTRENCHED IN SUCH KEY AREAS IN AND ABOUT LISBON AS LISNAVE SHIPYARDS AND HAS PROVEN ON OCCASIONS LIKE THE "REPUBLICA" AND SUCCESSIVE RADIO RENASCENCA INCIDENTS ITS ABILITY TO PUT WORKERS IN STREETS. WHEN FIRST CREATED, UDP TERMED ITSELF A "POPULAR FRONT ORGANIZATION" WHOSE GOAL WAS TO ORGANIZE AND EDUCATE WORKING CLASS PENDING RESTRUCTURING PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH WOULD THEN LEAD WORKERS IN ASSUMPTION OF POWER. SUCH A PARTY HAS NOW BEEN FOUNDED. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, WHAT EXACT

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NATURE OF PCP(R) - UDP RELATIONSHIP WILL BE, AND WHETHER ESTABLISHMENT OF PCP(R) WILL HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON UDP ACTIVITIES.

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